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THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu Volume 78, Issue 5 October 6, 2000

The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

Throwdown at the 'Showdown'



Photos by Glenn Russell

Prairie View A&M's Panther shows his school spirit at the Cotton Bowl. The Panther football team went on to lose the annual Cotton Bowl game 47-7.

Waller county receives awaited transit system

By Tamela McGregor
Panther Staff

Starting Nov. 1, 2000, Waller County, in conjunction with the Colorado Valley Transit District, will have a commuter and transit bus system that has been in the processing stages for several months.

"The commuter and transit service will offer a smarter way to work...or wherever you may want to go," said Vastene Olier, executive director of CVTD.

Individuals without vehicles, with disabilities, or those who live outside the new route system will also benefit from the service.

According to Olier, there will be circulatory bus

routes in Brookshire, Hempstead, Waller, and Prairie View.

Commuter service to the Katy area will connect to Houston METRO, providing access to such places as Katy Mills Mall, Katy Medical Center, Houston Community College, Prairie View A&M University, Gulf Coast Career Cen-



With the addition of a transit bus system, Waller County residents will have a quicker commute.

ter and downtown Houston.

See **BUS** on Page 4

Visions for student memorial fund run comes true

By Deondra Dockery and
Panther Staff
Sheleah Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

The "I have a dream" words spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King are getting ready to become reality for Lynn Pettijohn.

Pettijohn, campus mail supervisor and cellular operations manager here at Prairie View A&M University, had a vision shortly after four PVAMU athletes were killed in an auto accident.

The student athletes were headed to a track meet at the University of Arkansas-Pinebluff.

In his dream, Pettijohn envisioned a memorial run in their honor.

Pettijohn, who can be



Lynn Pettijohn

seen jogging around campus daily, dreamed of a memorial walk with white crosses, although he never had any expectations of promoting a fund-raiser for the university and its fallen Panthers.

John H. Rafferty, Pettijohn's supervisor, heard about the vision and sug-

gested that the whole Panther family get involved.

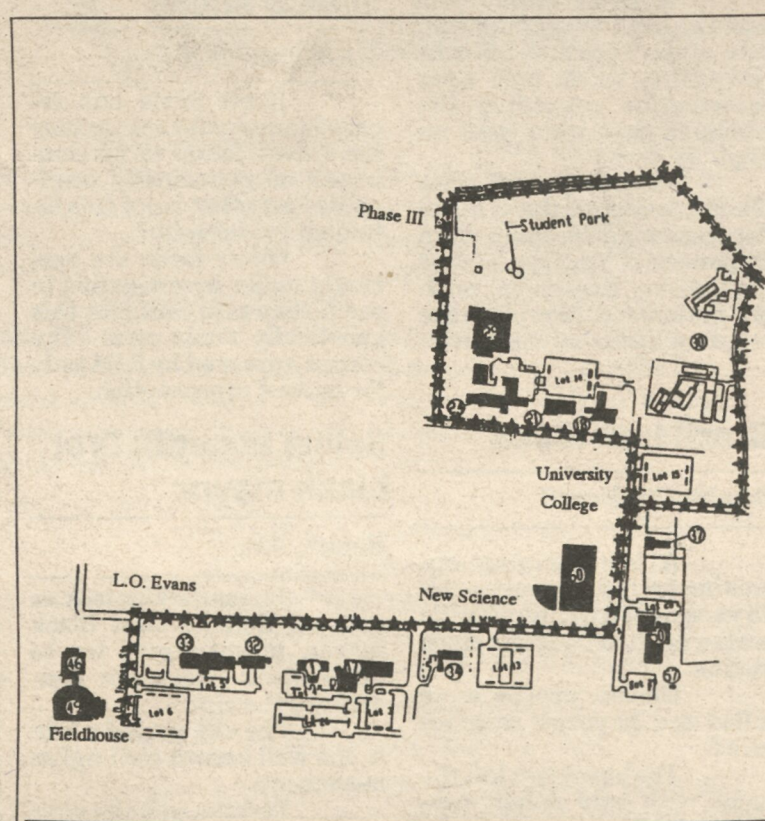
Rafferty brought the idea to the attention of Brian Dickens, director of Student Activities and Leadership, and Carolyn Oliver, director of Institutional Development.

The two strongly supported the idea, figuring it would be beneficial to the university.

On Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 a.m. during homecoming week, the first "5K Memorial Run / Walk/Ride/Roll" will be held.

Participants will be able to run, walk, ride their bicycles, skateboards, and even rollerblade around campus.

See **FUND** on Page 4



In This Issue

New Panthers crowned.... see Page 4

Wake up laughing See Page 9

Attendance record see Page 11

•World•

Singer's fabrication allegations denied**London, England**

Victoria Beckham of the Spice Girls and husband David were accused of fabricating a story about a fan attempting to take their son to get David's speeding charges dismissed.

David claims that he was speeding because he was trying to get away from the media. But, according to Andrew Morton's book, no one was attempting to take their child.

Israeli- Palestinian truce smashed**Jerusalem, Israel**

Major gun battles heated up between the Israeli security forces and Palestinians. Because of the outbreak, this ceased hopes of talks in Paris and Egypt that could end the bloodshed.

With the aid of helicopters, soldiers took on hundreds of Palestinians near Netzarim. Overall, three protesters were killed.

Proof found through flying floppy**Belgrade, Yugoslavia**

A flying floppy disk was thrown through the window of the Yugoslavia Statistics Office, which held valid information regarding the elections that were held on Sept. 24, 2000.

According to Mladjan Dinkic, leader of the G17 independent party, more than 50 percent of Yugoslavs voted for Vojislav Kostunica, modern nationalist, to replace the reigning Slobodan Milosevic.

Brazil bus crash**Sao Paulo, Brazil**

A bus carrying approximately 65 passengers fell 25 yards into a ravine after its brakes malfunctioned on a steep incline.

Eleven people were killed and 35 people were injured.

The bus driver left the scene with only minor injuries, and his whereabouts are unknown.

•National•

National standards ok for drunk driving**Washington, D.C.**

Congress has come to the conclusion that states that do not abide by national standards will be penalized.

The states will be required to adopt a 0.08 blood alcohol content level for drunken driving by 2004.

Presently 18 states and Washington, D.C. have adopted 0.08 laws. In Massachusetts, a drinking level of 0.08 is only recognized as evidence but not considered as drunken driving.

Test-tube brother helps sister**Chicago, Ill.**

Molly Nash, a 6-year-old girl, was in need of a bone-marrow stem-cell transplant to cure her from a blood disease. For doctors to find the proper cells, they formed several embryos with eggs and sperm from the girl's parents.

The embryo was implanted in her mother, and a boy was born. From her new brother, Adam, she received transplant stem cells from his umbilical cord.

The procedure has been successful but only time will tell if the transplant will continue to work.

Altered corn found in taco shells**Washington, D.C.**

Kraft foods has recalled taco shells because they have been found to be composed of genetically engineered corn that is not safe for human consumption.

Other foods are currently under investigation to see if they also contain this genetically made corn. The corn is approved by EPA only for animal consumption.

Selma accepts first black mayor**Selma, Ala.**

James Perkins took an oath as Selma's first black mayor, promising to try to unite black and white residents of the city.

The city played a role in the well known civil rights movement.

Perkins won the election against the white mayor who served for 36 years, Joe Smitherman.

•Regional•

DEA denies probe of Rap-a-Lot founder**Houston, Texas**

Claims had been made that the drug investigation into the founder of the Houston recording label Rap-a-Lot had stopped after intervention by a California congresswoman.

According to Ernest Howard, DEA special agent, James Prince and associates are still under investigation.

One of the label's artists "Scarface," released an album Tuesday, with lyrics about killing agency informants.

Life sentence awarded**Fort Worth, Texas**

Richard Lee Franks was sentenced to life in prison for kidnapping 6-year-old Opal Jennings.

State District Judge Bob Gill ruled that Franks will serve the maximum penalty.

Franks protests, saying he was forced to confess.

Internet training at TAMU**College Station, Texas**

Texas A&M University will be hosting an internet day to help build the interest of faculty, staff, and students in the advanced network applications.

Applications range from humanities to the sciences.

To register go to <http://internet2.tamu.edu>. The conference is scheduled for Oct. 16, 2000.

Minority leadership conference**Dallas, Texas**

The University of Texas at Dallas is hosting its 12th Annual Minority Student Leadership Conference on Nov. 4, 2000.

The deadline for registration is Oct. 20, 2000. For more information call (972) 883-6390.

Calendar of events

6 Friday
Pick up your copy of The Panther
Lady Panthers vs. Jackson State, Babydome-Prairie View, 7:30 pm
Phi Beta Sigma Social, West Wing Alumni- Prairie View, 9 pm
Voter Registration, Alumni Hall- Prairie View, 3 pm

7-8 Sat./Sun.
Panthers vs. Alcorn State, Blackshear Stadium- Prairie View, 6pm
Lady Panther vs. Centenary College- Shreveport, Louisiana, 12 pm
Cross Country, Prairie View Invitational- Prairie View
Rho Chi Psi After-party, West Wing Alumni- Prairie View, 8 pm

9 Monday
University Prayer Breakfast, Alumni Hall- Prairie View, 7 am
Drive-in Movie Night, Fuller Hall parking lot-Prairie View, 7 pm

10 Tuesday
Red Ribbon Campaign Ice Cream Social, Alumni Hall- Prairie View, 4 pm
Century II Book Review, Drew Hall- Prairie View, 6:30 pm

11 Wednesday
King & Queen Coronation Ball, Babydome- Prairie View, 7:30 pm
Homecoming Golf Pre-Tournament, Lawrence Marshall Golf Course- Hempstead, Texas, 9 am

12 Thursday
5K Student Memorial Fund Run, Prairie View, 7 am
Black College Comedy Tour, Babydome- Prairie View, 8 pm

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Candy paint does not guarantee education

By Sheleah Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

Excuse me for thinking that a university's campus should be reserved for campus activities.

This list includes but is not limited to reading, studying, writing papers and, can't forget about, studying.

Notice that I omitted 'flowin', fighting, smoking weed and 'sippin' syrup'.

You see as a community assistant, editor-in-chief,

and regular old student, I have witnessed a few too many students doing the latter mentioned activities more than the things that I would consider university standards or maybe even requirements.

It seems that many students are spending time looking cute for Alumni Hall dining rather than actually getting up for class.

My next topic would

be 'hooked up' cars.

These nicely decorated vehicles make the strip in front of the Babydome favor Crenshaw Boulevard.

Sure, the candy paint jobs, mirrored tints and other extras are nice. But, if they aren't accompanied by a backpack full of books and folders then who cares?

I'm not even discussing the music situation.

How much does it actually cost for five or six sets of speakers?

And how much does it cost to replace the hearing that they damage?

I just have one more question. Can you please cut it down a little when you pass by Hillard Hall? I am in class trying to learn and I am sure there are professors actually trying to teach.

Vultures prey on people, homework

By Kalyn L. Bullock
Managing Editor

Okay, I want you to think long and hard, and see if you know anyone like this.

Imagine that you and a group of your friends work great together, and anytime one of you needs help with something, the other is always there.

Say for example, one of you happens to know an upperclassman that has the old work for a class you are all taking.

Now, it would be cheating if you and your group just copied the work, but it's okay if you all work together to attempt the problems and use the other work as a resource.

Well, all that's fine and dandy, but nothing is ever that perfect when you are

working with people because someone in the group is always bound to take advantage of others.

I'm in a study group with people who I have known since middle school, and we don't take advantage of each other.

But, as soon as we open the door to other people, problems begin to occur. We have a name for these people, "VULTURES!"

Our definition of a vulture is someone who preys over us for the work and is always quick to perpetrate as if they are really attempting to do something.

Also, we define a vulture as someone who makes better grades than you do because they copy your work and compare it to others so that their grade is better than yours.

So, what we decided is that we would just have to cut some people loose (not to mention any names).

It hurts me to cut them loose because they may be very nice people but there is no excuse for being lazy.

Classes are not easy especially when you are in

your major courses.

If my group members and I have worked on something that was very time consuming, we are no longer willing to donate all of our work to the vultures.

It wouldn't be so bad but these vultures seem like they are always the ones who make the best grades, have high grade point averages, get all of the scholarships, and all of the good internships and co-ops.

No, I'm not saying that everyone who has a high grade point average is a vulture, because some people are just plain smart, or like me work, hard to get what they need to make it in life.

But these vultures never cease to amaze me because no matter how hard you have been working on something, they are never willing to share or assist you with your problem and the next day, they will have their hand out for your help with something else. Does that sound familiar?



The vultures wouldn't be so bad if they ever contributed anything to the group instead of constantly preying over us.

For example, if we had ten problems to do and it's three of us in the group, we could evenly distribute the problems among ourselves and do the odd problem together.

Then, we could compile all of our work together to complete our assignment. I don't recognize that as cheating but "networking!"

So if you have vultures in your study group, let them go. Because in the long run they will only be hurting themselves with your assistance.

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Submission Policy for Letters to the Editor

Anyone who reads The Panther can submit a letter to the editor by fax, e-mail, or postal service. All submissions are subject to editing and must include the author's name and telephone number.

CAREER FOCUS

Mathematics alumnae shines among the country

Recent PVAMU graduate, Thomas Oliver, was named one of the three top students of 30 graduate students from nationwide universities.

Oliver was selected to attend an eight-week mathematics research institute.

The research institute was sponsored by the Center for Nonlinear Analysis at Carnegie Mellon University.

Oliver graduated from PVAMU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics, May 2000.

Pulliam Journalism Fellowship

The 2001 Pulliam Journalism Fellowship is now available and applications are being accepted for next summer. Twenty winners nationwide will be chosen for a 10-week internship from June 11, 2001 through Aug. 17, 2001. The stipend for the program is \$5,775.

Fellows will be assigned to either The Indianapolis Star or The Arizona Republic as government/justice team reporters, sportswriters, feature writers, arts and entertainment writers, business writers or general assignment reporters, depending on their area of interest and experience. Requests will be honored.

Requirements for the fellowship:

- Complete the application, send:

- Send a resume, a recent photo for publicity purposes, five to 15 writing samples on 8.5 inch by 11 inch paper, three letters of recommendation and a college grade transcript.

Early admission postmark deadline is Nov. 15, 2000, and Mar. 1, 2001 for general admission. For more information call (317) 444-6001 or come by The Panther room to get an application.

New generation builds University College tradition Pageant allows 24 residents to display talent, grace

By Yauna Estes
Assignment Editor

The first University College Pageant was held in Hobart Taylor Recital Hall.

There are over 3,000 freshmen attending Prairie View this year, and most of them reside in University College for which a pageant was held Wednesday.

The idea of the pageant was to showcase talent of incoming freshmen.

Students from each building were allowed to vote for a male and female team representative to compete.

The show began with an explosion of purple and gold African-influenced costumes, rhythmic African drumming and dances that were choreographed by members of N' Cobra and N' Soroma.

The students met

the sounds of screams and claps as they each took part in the categories of campus attire, talent, questions and evening wear.

Each pair took center stage with Samuel Townsel and Katie Barnes being crowned University College king and queen.

Each winner receives a scholarship and other gifts donated by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority.

"I feel excellent, great. I can't believe I won," said Barnes of Katy, Texas.

"I have no words. I am blown away. It was stiff competition, and I never knew we would come out on top," said Samuel Townsel of Texarkana, Texas.

Judges of the event included Krista Malloy, Ceasar Barajas, Gwen Owens, Lettie Raab, Tim Albert and Herbert Thomas.



Photo by Glenn Russell

Samuel Townsel and Katie Barnes, from building # 36, reign as winners of the University College pageant.

Bus from Page 1

These services will run Monday through Friday. The bus system plans to service the community seven days a week, much like the METRO Bus System in Houston, with operation on the weekend and late evenings to the Katy area.

The project was funded by the Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality through the Houston Galveston Area Council. They will contribute 80 percent of the money while the other 20 percent will come from fares, contracts, and various supporters.

The bus system is a much needed addition to the community; its operation is convenient - saving time, money, and the environment.

Olier noted that the bus system should also be of interest to local residents and students because it will create jobs.

For more informa-

tion, call 1800-548-1068, ext. 15 or 16.

Fund from Page 1

The 5K will begin in front of the Billy J. Knicks fieldhouse, continue down L.W. Minor, pass Harrington Science, the new science building and the remains of what used to be the president's house.

The path will then take a turn at E. Norris and pass the south end of University College.

Participants will then turn on Fourth Street and continue through farm land until they have reached E.E. O'Banion. The last leg of the event will bring contestants back passed earlier sites with completion at the Babydome.

All students, faculty, staff, and friends of PVAMU are asked to participate as all proceeds will benefit the

PVAMU student memorial scholarship fund. This fund was started in the spring of 1999 after the tragic accident.

Local radio station, 97.9 the Box contacted PVAMU officials hoping to raise money in honor of the students. The station and other supporters donated nearly \$23,000.

Since then the total has risen to a little over \$50,000 with more monies being accepted daily.

"A monetary goal has not been set for this year's event," said Carolyn Oliver.

"Right now we are concentrating on getting the participant forms available for as many as possible."

This event is expected to continue as a homecoming tradition.

Participant forms are available in the Office of Student Activities and Leadership and the Institutional Development office.

Agriculture student shows multi-talents

By Demetra Perkins
Panther Staff

At a ripe age, senior Lee Jones has achieved several victories and held leadership positions in several avocations.

An agriculture student, Jones began his training at 9-years-old when he joined Future Farmers of America (FFA) and received several awards and honors.

Jones was the first African-American to win two consecutive years at the Waller County Fair.

"I chose agriculture because of my love and desire for animals and my natural gifts of agronomy," Jones said.

As an active Prairie View A&M student, Jones' lifestyle doesn't stop at animal science and agronomy.

Jones dedicates a por-

tion of his time as a minister of music for the youth choir at the Progressive Baptist Church in Hempstead and St. Paul Baptist Church in Brookshire.

The 22-year-old senior also plays defense for the Panther football team.

Despite Jones' many extracurricular activities he manages to maintain above average grades and grade point averages.

Among his achievements, Jones was also the first African-American to win grand champion goat for Prairie View in February 2000 and achieve outstanding recognition.

So what are Jones' plans after graduation? He currently plans to stay and work with Prairie View's agriculture department. His aspirations are to contribute more accomplishments and



Lee Jones

better the department's recognition.

Jones said his inspiration is his belief in the Lord as well as his son.

He feels that the Lord is what makes everything possible for him and God can be an inspiration for anyone at any age.

"In order for me to be able to encourage my son, I must first set an example," Jones said.

Don't Forget

to come to The Panther meetings every Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. in Drew Hall, Suite 23.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Visitation during Homecoming 2000

During Homecoming Week, October 8-October 14, 2000, the visitation guidelines will be as follows:

- Only immediate family members (parents, legal guardians or siblings) may visit residents in their rooms.
- All visitation will be limited to the hours of 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Valid identification of visiting guests is required. Temporary visitation passes will be issued to authorized guests (parents, legal guardians, or siblings).
- Only vehicles with current authorized University Village parking permits will be allowed into the gated communities of University Village. Residents who arrive in vehicles with no authorized University Village parking permit will be denied access. Residents are strongly encouraged to leave vehicles parked in the gated communities and to walk to as many events as possible. Strict vehicle and pedestrian access control will be implemented throughout this period.
- No facilities in University Village communities or the Banks Hall are available for private organizational activities.

All students are encouraged to participate in the breakfast meals available after the last event on Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14. Immediately following breakfast, all students are asked to return to their respective residential communities and avoid any outside congregation.

This message is provided by the Office of Director of Community Life

Classifieds

HEY YOU!!

Do you any have 20 Questions? If so, turn them in to the Office of Student Publications in Drew Hall, Suite 23 or e-mail them to panther@pvamu.edu.

For more information, call 936-857-2132

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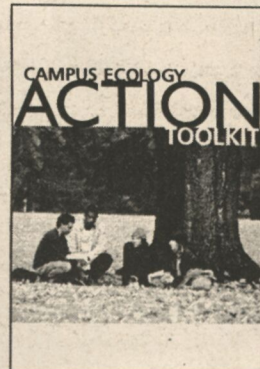
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Sunday, October 8, 2000

Ecumenical Service

Monday, October 9, 2000

7:00 a.m. University Prayer Breakfast

7:00 p.m. Drive-in Movie Night - Fuller Hall Parking Lot

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

4:00 p.m. Red Ribbon Campaign Ice Cream Social - Alumni Hall

6:30 p.m. Century II Book Review: "Even the Stars Look Lonesome" Maya Angelou

7:00 p.m. Homecoming Softball Tournament Intramural/Recreational Field

Wednesday, October 11, 2000

9:00 a.m. Homecoming Golf Pre-Tournament (Skins Game) - Lawrence Marshall Golf Course

7:30 p.m. King & Queen Coronation Ball "Odyssey 2001 A Dream Envisioned"

(Billy J. Nicks Complex -Baby Dome) **FREE**

Thursday, October 12, 2000

7:00 a.m. 5K Student Memorial Fund (Run-Walk-Ride-Roll)- Baby Dome

12:00 p.m. Air Jump Inc. Fun Day

5:00 p.m. College of Education Seminar & Reception

6:00 p.m. Class of 1950 50th Anniversary Banquet/Gala - Houston, TX

8:00 p.m. College of Engineering Banquet Gala

8:00 p.m. Black College Comedy Tour \$3

Friday, October 13, 2000

9:00 a.m. Alumni Golf Tournament - Lawrence Marshall Golf Course

1:00 p.m. NAA General Meeting Harden/Waller Ext. Bldg.

5:30 p.m. Alumni Homecoming Banquet

6:00 p.m. Mock Funeral/Pep Rally/Bonfire

8:00 p.m. Homecoming Concert featuring Patti LaBelle - Billy J. Nicks Complex-Baby Dome

(\$10-students, \$25-general, \$30-reserved, \$35-floor)

Saturday, October 14, 2000

7:00 a.m. College of Agriculture Alumni Breakfast - E.B. Evans Animal Science

9:30 a.m. Homecoming Parade

2:00 p.m. Football Game vs. Alabama State

Halftime Show & NAA Car Raffle

5:30 p.m. Class of 1953 Annual Meeting

8:00 p.m. Homecoming Stepshow & Party **(\$10)**

(Billy J. Nicks Complex -Baby Dome)

Sunday, October 15, 2000

Campus Cleanup

2000



plus!

"Proud Panthers: Sharing the Power of a Dream"

Hip-hop is the most popular form of expression among youths all over the world. Many people confuse hip-hop with rap.

Although hip-hop and rap are similar, there is a deeper meaning to hip-hop. It is a culture that developed into a way of life for many people worldwide since its birth in the early 1970s.

Hip-hop consists of four main forms of expression: MC-ing, DJ-ing, graffiti and breakdancing. The art of writing and performing rhymes over heavy rhythmic music is called MC-ing. DJ-ing is defined as using turntables to create new music for records. Graffiti is painting words and pictures on walls. And finally, breakdancing is an athletic

style of dance that is often done to hip-hop music.

Fashion is another representation of hip-hop culture. Baggy clothes and ripped jeans are some of the new trends of the hip-hop generation. It is truly an All-American culture.

People all over the world have been exposed to this culture. It is still growing in several countries. Hip-hop brings diversity wherever it has influences on people. Although it is sometimes controversial and often criticized, it always sends a powerful yet sometimes rebellious message.

Hip-hop is universal. It has even spread to Mexico City where the radio banned Molotov from airing their single "Give Me The Power."

After hip-hop spread from Mexico, it made its way to other Latin American countries like Argentina.

Berlin was the first city in Europe to have a hip-hop influence. It began there in the mid-1980s.

A German graffiti artist became fascinated with hip-hop films like *Beat Street*. He believed that hip-hop is the only sub-culture with substance. Hip-hop was easily accepted in France due to the large number of disadvantaged youths who could also relate to the struggles of the rappers in America.

By Christy Thornton
Panther Staff

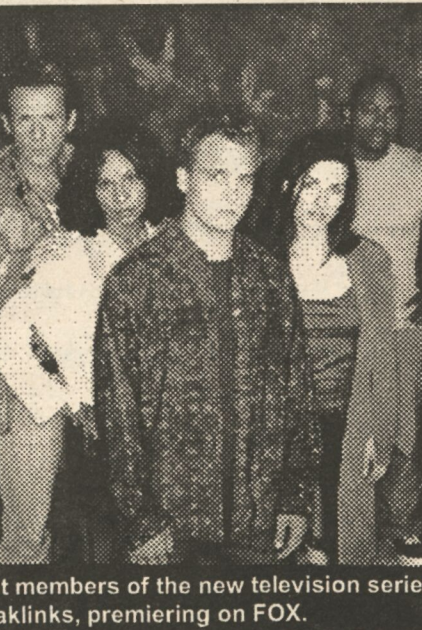
Freakylinks is a new science fiction drama series on FOX Network. It premieres for the first time on Oct. 6 at 8 p.m.

The creators of *The Blair Witch Project* produced the show. The new series is a thriller that recounts tails of the paranormal.

Freakylinks is the first television series that will exist simultaneously on television and on the internet. This allows viewers to keep up with the show on and off of television.

The show is about Derek Barnes, played by Ethan Embry, who runs an underground website, *freakylinks.com*, with his partners Jason Tatum, played by Karim Prince, and Lan Williams, played by Lizette Carrion.

Freakylinks.com is a website that deals with the



Cast members of the new television series, *Freakylinks*, premiering on FOX.

conducted the investigations.

Derek discovers an e-mail that depicts his brother as being alive. He, along with his brother's ex-fiance Chloe, begin to investigate what really happened on the night of his brother's death.

They begin to discover strange and unusual things that have been happening and begin to uncover the mystery surrounding Adam's death.

Freakylinks is a very exciting series. It does not give you nightmares at the end, but it does keep you jumping out of your seat.

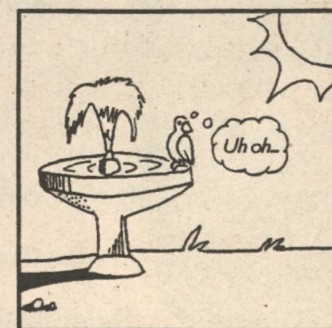
The series also has a very good story line and surely there will be many more great episodes to come. It is a show with a totally different concept which makes it very interesting.

By Jessica S. Hays
Panther Staff

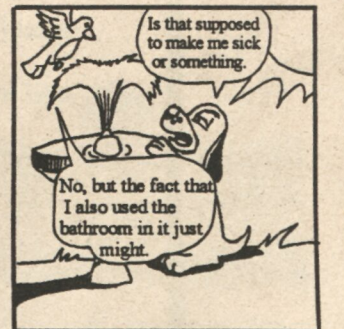
- Who were the three people from Student Activities who were left at the Cotton Bowl?
- Who was the girl at the State Fair Classic with the silver hair going for that platinum look?
- And what in the world did Grambling's majorettes have on?!?!?!?
- Who was suprised when Changing Faces didn't show up?
- Who really wanted to see them anyway?
- Why do those shirts with the back out cost so much when it's only half of a shirt?
- Do you think the reason so many students didn't get financial aid is because Patti LaBelle is coming?
- Why do professors even bother to pay \$110 for parking spaces that they know will always be taken?
- How many of those December graduates can we anticipate seeing next semester?
- How can the PV police write tickets for people who don't have license plates without their license plate number?
- How many people had "good hair" when they were little?
- What happened?
- Who else wants Hits to come to PV so he can get clowned?
- How many girls are trying to wait until homecoming to get that long overdue perm?
- Forget Waldo, where's President Hines?
- Where is the girl who thought she won the lottery back in 1998?
- How many people have tried to do that "stuffing envelopes at home" program to get some extra money?
- Wouldn't it be great if there was an IHOP in Prairie View?
- Wouldn't it be great if there was something in Prairie View besides the university and PV Grocery?
- What do you think?

We want to know what you think. Please submit any questions you may have to The Panther, Suite 23 Drew Hall. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.

Clovis & Brittany



by: Jerome Fontenot



Bridgestone/Firestone alerts consumers

Austin, Texas

You have probably heard of the recent safety recalls of certain Bridgestone/Firestone tires.

Texas Attorney General John Cornyn is monitoring this situation very closely to ensure that all Texans are

treated fairly. All unsafe tires must be swiftly and properly replaced.

The current recall applies to all Firestone Radial ATX and Radial ATXII tires in size P235/75/R15, produced in North America, and to Wilderness AT tires in size P235/75/R15 produced at the Decatur, Ill. plant.

These are light truck tires, many provided as original equipment on Ford Explorers.

Bridgestone/Firestone and Ford have announced that customers who have these tires on their vehicles may have the tires replaced at no charge at any Bridgestone/Firestone service

center or Ford/Lincoln-Mercury dealer at no charge.

In addition, customers may buy replacement tires at any tire retailer, as long as the replacement sizes and models have been approved by Ford as suitable for the vehicle.

Customers will be reimbursed by Bridgestone/Firestone up to \$100 per tire,

including taxes and mounting and balancing charges.

To obtain a refund, customers must keep their receipts for the replacement tires and return the recalled tires and copies of the receipts to an unauthorized Firestone retailer.

For information go to www.ford.com.

Houston gets wake up call

By Glenn Russell
Photo Editor

Houston will now wake up with a laugh.

Houston radio station, KJMQ-MAJIC 102.1, has added Tom Joyner to the morning line-up.

Joyner, also known as the "fly-jock" and "the hardest working man in radio," has a nationally syndicated morning show.

His morning show is one that is broadcast on over 100 radio stations across the nation with over 10 million listeners tuning in daily.

Joyner started at an AM station in Montgomery, Ala. and was eventually hired to broadcast his morning show at KDAA-FM in Dallas, Texas. He also had an evening show in Chicago, Ill. on WGCI.

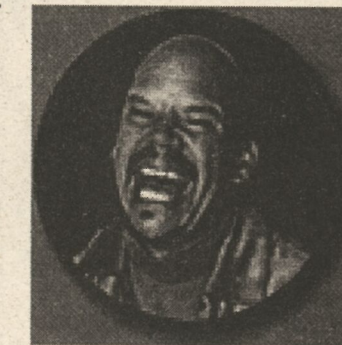
While Joyner was trying to make it in the real world, he had some struggles with transportation. In order to get back and forth to his jobs, he to flew five days a week.

His humor and advocacy for black America allowed him to become a household name.

Joyner's listeners could wake up every morning to get a quick laugh and at the same time be informed about an issue that concerns them.

The cast for his show includes comedians J. Anthony Brown, Miss Dupree, and Myra J. Sybil Wilkes who was Joyner's sidekick in Chicago, and BET's Tavis Smiley.

Joyner's show al-



Tom Joyner

Photo courtesy of Tom Joyner

lows people to call in and respond to a question, and designates Tuesday as Father's Day and Wednesday as Mother's Day to honor a mother and father who has gone above and beyond.

He also raises money for HBCU's and he currently has a voter registration line at 1-866-yes-vote, which is set up for people to get at least five unregistered voters a day.

Other features of the show include the Funky Weather Forecast, Miss Dupree, Express Yourself, In Da News, Murdering the Hits, The Smiley Report, and many more.

Joyner took the morning spot once held by "Funky Larry Jones and Company."

The changes were made after MAJIC 102 was bought by Radio One, owned by Cathy Hughes.

Majic 102 will still keep Funky Larry and Company.

Val Wilson and "Chilly" Bill Smith will still work during the show to give the local forecasts and news.

Funky Larry and Dez White will follow from 9 a.m.-noon with their own show.

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and ask for a current values chart. Old Savings Bonds.

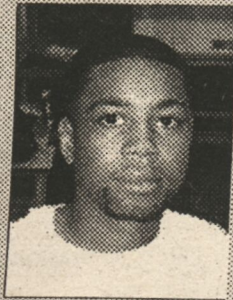
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Do you have old Savings Bonds? Check out the Savings Bond Calculator at www.savingsbonds.gov to discover their value.

* Pre-December 1965 Series E Savings Bonds stop earning interest at 40 years, and those purchased after November 1965 stop at 30 years. A public service of this newspaper

State Fair Classic attracts record crowd



By Ryan McGinty
Sports Editor

After listening to the speaker announce the attendance at the State Fair Classic last weekend, I could not believe it. For those of you who did not hear, this year's classic attracted a record crowd of 65,000 fans. This immediately led to several questions being asked by the faithful fans.

"How much did PV get?" "How much did Grambling get?" "Do the bands get any of the money?" "How much does the promoter get?" I cannot answer all of the questions, but I can vouch that the promoter went home happy. Tickets started around \$10, so if you do the math, they made at least \$650,000 that night.

As soon as the figures were announced, "faithful" SWAC fans from other schools commenced to speak their two cents. When told that the State Fair Classic ranks number one in black college football attendance so far, people made a variety of excuses to knock us.

One fan made note that the Florida A&M classic in November has 50,000 tickets sold already. Another follower said that the fans are there only to enjoy the fair. Lastly, someone asked how many fans were in attendance after halftime. If Southern, Jackson State or Florida A&M are not mentioned when black college attendance comes up, people question other teams to the fullest.

As a result of the high attendance, this year's classic ranks as the highest attended game among black college athletics among games played this season. Last weekend, Tennessee State and Florida A&M were riding high after setting an attendance record in Atlanta. This week, they are relegated to the number two spot after the Panthers and Grambling filled the stadium.

Several weeks ago, Jackson State and Southern matched up in the New Orleans Superdome and attracted "only" 49,000 fans. I mentioned the word "only" because these same teams have attracted 60,000 plus fans to their games in previous years.

Athletic officials from both schools were expecting a capacity crowd this season due to the New Orleans ambiance and the teams strengths. However, no fan expected JSU and SU to both have losses when the game took place, but that is not an excuse.

The 2000 State Fair Classic should rank no lower than number three among black college classics once the season is over. The only competition left that Prairie View has to face is the annual Florida Classic in Orlando, Fla. and the annual Bayou Classic in New Orleans, two of the "elite" classics among black college fans.

Where can the classic go from this point? Personally, I think the sky is the limit. I will go out on a limb and expect at least 70,000 fans for next year's game. The promoters of this game did an excellent job of getting the word out to the community on a timely basis.

This weekend, I hope the momentum will carry over as we play host to the Braves of Alcorn State University. An added bonus is that their marching band will make the journey along with their team. In essence, fans get the enjoyment of watching two events for the price of one.

Good luck to the Panthers this weekend.

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Tigers defeat Panthers in front of record crowd

By Ryan McGinty
Sports Editor

Was it the presense of Destiny's Child? Was it the aura of the Cotton Bowl and the large ferris wheel in the background? Whatever it was, it seems to have brought the best in Prairie View A&M football.

After a surprising first quarter lead by Prairie View, the Grambling State Tigers rebounded to defeat Prairie View 47-7 last weekend at the Cotton Bowl.

In front of a record crowd of 65,215 at the State Fair Classic, the Prairie View (0-5, 0-4 SWAC) offensive and defensive units sparked during the first quarter.

Throughout the quarter, the Panther offense moved the ball down the field with relative ease and the Panther

defense contained the high-powered Grambling (4-1, 3-0) offense, who was playing without star receiver Scotty Anderson.

With 6:32 left in the first quarter, quarterback Jamaal Foster's five-yard pass to receiver Marcus Ballard put the Panthers ahead 7-0.

The touchdown was just the Panthers' second of the season and it marked the first time the Panthers had a lead all season. However, the good times commenced quickly once the first quarter came to an end.

Grambling immediately took charge in the second quarter on a long pass from Randy Hymes to Ellis Spears.

The pass helped set up Grambling's first score, which was a one-yard run by Brad Hill. Grambling in-

Upcoming Games

Alcorn St. at Prairie View A&M	6 p.m.
Southern at Alabama A&M	6:30 p.m.
Jackson St. at Alabama St.	7 p.m.
Grambling at Florida A&M	7 p.m.
Arkansas Pine Bluff at TSU	7 p.m.

creased the lead to 20-7 by halftime with a touchdown pass from Hymes and a nine-yard run by Rodney Beaudoin.

The Prairie View offense, which sparked in the first quarter, struggled the second quarter and could not stay on the field long enough to give the defense a rest.

The second half was all Grambling. After Foster

left the game with an injury, the Tigers pressured backups Joseph Vaughn and Allynson Sheffield constantly throughout the half.

The Tigers forced the Panther quarterbacks out of the pocket on almost every play and forced them to run for yardage themselves.

As a result, Grambling forced a season

high 10 sacks and held the Panthers to 98 total yards. Grambling amassed 377 total yards for the night.

This weekend, the Panthers return home to face winless Alcorn State (0-5) at Blackshear Stadium. Kickoff time is set for 6 p.m.

Although Prairie View is out of the conference race this year, several SWAC games this weekend will determine who has the inside track to the SWAC championship game.

Texas Southern hosts Arkansas-Pine Bluff in a critical SWAC Western showdown.

Texas Southern boasts the nation's top defensive unit while the Golden Lions feature a rushing attack that has caused problems for SWAC opponents this season.

The Hornets of Alabama State play host to Jackson State in a SWAC Eastern showdown.

Office of Intramural Sports hosts homecoming softball classic

By Ryan McGinty
Sports Editor

The Office of Intramural/recreational sports will host a homecoming softball classic on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

The softball classic, which will be held on the campus softball field, is open to all students, administrators, faculty and staff. The classic will start at 5 p.m.

There will be a total of eight teams on a first come, first serve basis. Once eight teams are identified, there will be no additional teams added.

Faculty and staff will consist of one team and there will be seven student teams. An elimination rule will be in effect to ensure each team gets to play.

All games will consist of five innings or 55 minutes, whichever comes first. In addition, games will be

called if a ten run shutout occurs.

A minimum of nine players are required on the field at one time. No more than ten players will be allowed on the field at one time.

Teams must have at least 15 players available by the time of the event.

All teams members need to report to the softball field no later than 4:30 p.m. Event supervisors will be Coach Raymond Burgess and Coach Clifton Gilliard.

Registration forms are available at the New Gym in room 110 or Drew Hall, room 129. The deadline for registration is Monday, Oct. 9.

Contact ext. 4654 or ext. 2220 for more information.



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Commentaries

Socializing rides in front seat, education in back

Wonoh Massaquoi
Special to the Panther

As I sat down and began the dreaded task of reading my history book, I stumbled upon a picture of black school children during the reconstruction era.

All of them were poorly dressed and unadorned.

They were some of the "elect few" children chosen by the Freedman's Bureau to attend a newly founded school for colored children in 1868.

I noticed how happy the children looked to be learning something new and I asked myself, "What happened?"

What happened to the zeal, the zest for learning that used to be a trademark of African-American people?

The other day, I posted a flyer up for math tutorials in one of the Univer-

sity College residence halls. I asked some of the students whether or not they had passed the math TASP.

About sixty percent of the people I asked had not.

On the night of tutorials, I waited and waited for someone to show up.

About five minutes before tutorials were over, one lone student arrived.

One out of about thirty who needed help.

I asked myself, "What happened?"

It seems as though education has taken a back seat to socialization here at Prairie View.

A high percentage of students are more interested in being seen, joining the right

organizations, and being popular than they are in getting a

tually studied and passing answers down the row.

Black people.
PV people.

Wake up!

We are the future leaders of our nation.

We are the ones that younger generations are looking up to.

Let's not disappoint them.

College is one of the few opportunities offered to a person for learning and developing him/herself.

Take advantage of the opportunity at hand because everyone is not blessed to enhance their education after high school.

Open up a book, whether it's required reading or not.

The best education is self education.

"The best education is self education."

real education.

Taking tests has become a matter of sitting behind that one person who ac-

You might find something that stimulates your mind by educating yourself.

Something that makes you want to know more or attracts your attention and leaves you thirsting for more.

And when you begin to realize the true essence of yourself and your potential, you will not regret sacrificing those few hours that you could have spent "playing screw on the cut."

Instead, you will be proud that you are beginning to learn things that you never thought you could absorb.

You will look at yourself in the mirror and begin thinking, "Da*n I'm tight!"

And you will not let the fight and the struggles of thousands of black people go in vain.

In the end when and after you have or will be challenged, you and only you will be able to say, "I know that I can!"

Building new stadium could bring great changes

Christy Thornton and Ahmad Roperson
Panther Staff

Prairie View is undergoing some major physical changes.

The construction of the new science building and the soon to be new MSC are only a few of the sites which will ultimately draw attention to PV.

With all the changes taking place, you would think that they would consider taking out the old stadium and building a new one.

The old stadium has definitely had it.

It needs to be renovated and made into a better place for athletes and their fans.

There are many benefits that would come from building a new stadium.

It would attract more fans and more student athletes.

A better field house and weight room would give the athletes the opportunity

to perfect their athletic talents and become more productive athletes.

A bigger and better equipped stadium would also allow more room for larger games like the TSU vs. PV game.

More money could be used for athletic scholarships to draw top athletes from all over the country.

Also, more athletic programs could be developed in the new facility.

People should not have to sit on the track during homecoming to watch the game.

The stadium we have does not hold 6,000 people.

Homecoming draws many fans and it is ridiculous that they have to bring their own folding chairs.

Many people do not even get the chance to enjoy the game because they have to walk around the entire time.

Wouldn't the team be more motivated if the crowd was actually sitting down watching the game?

A stadium that holds at least 10,000 people should be built for those enormous crowds.

Waller High School has a better-equipped stadium than PV.

The funding for the stadium is probably the greatest concern.

If money were set aside when all of the other renovations on campus were taking place, there would be funding for a new and improved stadium.

When a lot of students choose a college, one of the main things they consider is how much school spirit the school has.

If there is little school spirit, student athletes are less motivated which can result in a long losing streak and a



Stands were overcrowded during Homecoming 1999.

Photo by Githonga M'Njilewe

decrease in alumni support.

Alumni support is one of the most vital shows of support that Prairie View has.

To lose their support could result in losing out on our rich tradition that they helped to start.

If you were the alumni would you want to come to homecoming and stand

around, sit on the track or on the opposite side because there is not enough room for you and your family to sit?

The future generations at Prairie View will be the ones benefiting the most from the new athletic facility.

But it is well worth the investment to plan and build on it.